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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2020
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TEXAS MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS CLOSED FROM MARCH 20 TO APRIL 3

AUSTIN – As of midnight on March 20, all Texas massage establishments are closed until April 3 by executive order of Gov. Greg Abbott. The closure is intended to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

TDLR reminds other practitioners that they must continue to observe sanitary requirements. Anyone seeking guidance about whether to continue providing services should contact their local health departments or county judges, who are authorized to make that decision.

In other TDLR news:

- TDLR's provider of licensing examinations, PSI, has temporarily closed its test centers. due to the outbreak of COVID-19. See the closure notice on the PSI website (https://www.psionline.com/blog/psi-services-ceo-owned-and-operated-test-center-closures-in-the-us). Effective immediately, candidates can reschedule up to and including the day of testing at no penalty and no documentation required. NOTE: In most cases, candidates can reschedule their examinations on-line and they are encouraged to do so (https://www.psionline.com/important-notice-update-concerning-covid-19-coronavirus/). If a candidate chooses to reschedule through PSI's Candidate Call Center, they can expect to have longer than usual wait times. Call Centers are open: 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. PDT Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. PDT Saturday and Sunday.
 - All reschedule rules and no-show policies are relaxed through April 30.
 - Applicants who are unable to make it to their exams and reported as no-shows will be allowed to reschedule at no cost.
- Pearson VUE, the provider of the MBLEx (the national test for massage therapy applicants) has closed its testing centers in the United States and Canada. To learn more, view the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards Statement (https://www.fsmtb.org/media/2210/pearson-

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<u>vue-closing-announcement.pdf</u>) or visit the Pearson Vue webpage (https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update#ppc-closing).

TDLR regularly posts COVID-19 related updates and resources on its website at: (https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/covid19.htm).

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

Visit TDLR's <u>website</u> for more information and resources. You can search the <u>TDLR licensee database</u>, and also find <u>past violations</u> in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

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